## **Project Financing Options**

## EPA CHP Partners Meeting May 13, 2004 Hotel Washington

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### Money...Money...Money...

In an IDEA survey, 90% of respondent's identified "money" as the obstacle to implementation of CHP projects.

Source: <u>www.districtenergy.org</u>

The number one reason energy management projects are not implemented is that there is not enough cash or the energy manager cannot get budget approval for the limited cash available.

**Source: Association of Energy Engineers** 

## **Methods of Financing**

- Direct Purchasing
  - Cash
  - Loan
  - Bonds
  - Vendor Financing
- Leasing
  - Capital lease
  - True lease
- Performance contracting
  - Shared savings
  - Guaranteed savings
  - Outsourcing
- Utility Programs
- Partnerships
- Incentives

## Methods of Financing: Direct Purchasing

#### Cash

- Available cash is used to implement project
- Most profitable approach since you keep all revenue
- Must be willing to manage and maintain equipment

#### Loan

- Borrow money from lender [bank, third party, etc.]
- Less attractive return due to interest payments
- Interest on loan is tax deductible
- Must be willing to manage and maintain equipment

#### Vendor Financing

- Low rates to stimulate markets
- Bonds [similar to loan]
  - If bond issuer is tax exempt, interest paid to bond holder is tax exempt so bond holder may take smaller yield
  - General obligation bonds are issued by state or local governments
  - Revenue bonds are paid back by the revenues generated or savings achieved through project implementation

## **Methods of Financing: Leasing**

#### Capital lease

- You assume ownership of leased equipment through some agreed upon option [can be bargain price at end of loan]
- Only the interest portion of lease [loan] is deductible
- Can depreciate immediately so depreciation is deductible

#### True lease

- Lessor owns the equipment
- Lease period is shorter than equipment life
- Ownership may be an option after lease is over; but this is not specified in the lease
- Equipment never appears on company balance sheet; lessor depreciates the equipment
- Total [rent] payment is deductible as an expense

<sup>\*</sup>Payments can be bundled to include maintenance, taxes, and insurance.

# FAITH PLATING



- Incentive payments from Southern California Gas Company's Select Technology Program and Self Generation Incentive Program
- Faith Plating paid for remaining equipment costs through a leasing agreement.
- Cost savings annualized range from \$55,500 to \$143,300 [depending on boiler or electric immersion heaters displaced]
- Payback period of 4 years.

## Methods of Financing: Performance Contracting

- Typical performance contracting options
  - Shared savings
  - Guaranteed savings
  - Outsourcing [agreement as to service provided and price, chauffage]
- Characteristics
  - You get use of new equipment without spending capital
  - Use a share of future savings to pay for equipment
  - ESCO usually maintains the equipment
  - Performance Contract can include several of the financing options above

## **ESPC Used at Fort Bragg Army Base**



#### **CHP System**

- **5 MW Turbine Generator**
- 1,000 Ton absorption chiller
- **Turbine exhaust also produces** steam

## **Methods of Financing: Utility Programs**

- Utilities may offer: low-cost financing, incentives, technical assistance, rebates, or sell electricity, cooling, or heating.
- Benefits include:
  - Flexibility in project scope and size
  - Utilities could have unique expertise and knowledge of your facility
  - One-stop shopping for a turnkey project
  - Relationship with a known entity
  - Payment through utility bill
  - Pay through energy savings





 Example of Utility Energy Service Contract is GSA in Washington DC that provides heat and power to the Smithsonian Institution and the Department of Energy. [2003 Policy Day Plant Tour]

## **Methods of Financing: Partnerships**

- Strategic alliances among utilities, equipment manufacturers, service providers, government, etc.
- Pooling of funds
- Rate of return depends on economic performance of project.



#### Market Street CHP Consortia

- NW Natural
  - Oregon Office of Energy
    City of Portland
    Bonneville Power Admin.
- Pacific Power and Light
- Russell Development
- Energy Solutions Center
- American Gas Foundation

## **Characteristics Affecting Which Option to Use:**

- Company
  - Availability of rebates
  - Tax status
  - Company strategy [as related to maintenance, etc.]
  - Cash flow status
- Project
  - Project risk
  - Depth and breadth of skills required
  - Project need for management and maintenance
  - Equipment life and time horizon of need
- Financial
  - Present value
  - Impact on corporate capital structure
  - Warranty